

Remarks

Claim 47 has been amended to clarify its language. The term “plugging” has been replaced with the term “forming a plug” and references to “composition” have been replaced with “plug.”

The Examiner required restriction to one of four inventions found by the Examiner. The Assignee elects invention II, upon which claim 47 reads. The other pending claims have been cancelled.

The Assignee has offered several new claims, all of which depend directly or indirectly from claim 47 and highlight various aspects of the invention.

If inventions I or IV were elected, the Examiner further required election within each of three species found by the Examiner. Inasmuch as the Assignee has selected invention II, no further response is required. However, anticipating a similar election requirement with regard to the newly offered claims, the Assignee elects the following species of polymer: carboxymethylcellulose having from about a 0.65 to about a 0.95 degree of substitution; and partially hydrolyzed polyacrylamide having a degree of hydrolysis ranging from about 10 to about 20 percent. Claims reading on this species are: 47, 59-71.

The Assignee elects the following species of swelling agent: crosslinked acrylamide sodium acrylate copolymer. Claims reading on this species are: 47, 59-65, 67, and 69-71.

The Examiner also inquired as to how claim 58 can be cancelled if it never existed. In response, the Applicants' Assignee would point out page 10 of the

preliminary amendment filed September 19, 2003, where claim 58 is set out. This claim is found on page one of the 2-page “Applicant Remarks” filing of that date. Since claim 58 did indeed exist, it is possible to cancel it. In view of the prior existence of claim 58, the listing of claims is both complete and accurate.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Examiner’s Action mailed December 13, 2005. If there are any questions about the application, or this response, the undersigned counsel would welcome the opportunity to discuss the case with the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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